



State Representative  
Livvy R. Floren

## Making CT Safer, More Affordable

- **Middle class Connecticut families are being torn apart.** Young adults are leaving the state for jobs and housing. Senior citizens often cannot afford to retire here. Businesses and the jobs they provide are fleeing to other states.

These long term trends are cause for grave concern.

With these issues in mind, many legislators and I continued the fight to make Connecticut more affordable. For a sound future, we are working to keep our state viable and attract more jobs, income and people to Connecticut.

- **We proposed more incentives for young people to buy their first home.** We pushed to exempt pension benefits from the state income tax to help retirees. We advocated immediate \$500 income tax credits to assist families with rising energy costs and \$500 income tax credits to help with health care costs. We attempted to fix the cliff on the estate tax.

- **For the safety of children and families,** we advocated for mandatory life sentences for repeat violent offenders who commit three major crimes such as murder, rape, robbery and arson, known as 3 Strikes legislation.

Enclosed are highlights of new laws adopted, along with some unfinished business that must be addressed in coming years.

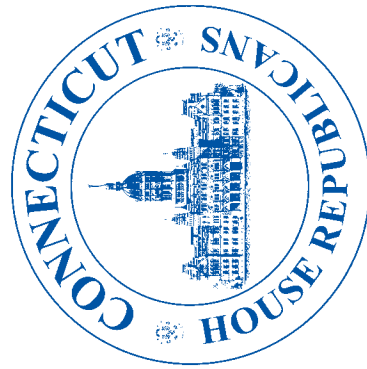
As always, please contact me with your state-related problems or concerns.

Sincerely, *Livvy*



*Reps. Livvy Floren, Lile Gibbons and Dolly Powers at the annual St. Patrick's Day parade.*

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State Representative  
**LIVVY R. FLOREN**  
Proudly Serving the 149<sup>th</sup> District  
Greenwich and Stamford ★ Connecticut



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## 2008 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative  
**LIVVY R. FLOREN**  
Proudly Serving the 149<sup>th</sup> District  
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# Fighting For Your Interests...

During the 2008 legislative session, my colleagues and I worked to restrain state spending and hold down taxes to help keep families, jobs and seniors in Connecticut. I have consistently maintained that it is our responsibility as your elected officials to help make Connecticut safer and more affordable.

## BUDGET: Streamlining Government

- ★ Helping middle class taxpayers, my colleagues and I proposed to reduce state expenditures by \$163 million through voluntary early retirements of state employees (ERIP).
- ★ We supported gasoline tax cuts because many people have no choice but to drive to work.
- ★ We advocated ending a temporary nuisance tax on job-creating small businesses that are the backbone of our local economy.
- ★ We proposed tax credits for energy conservation and healthcare costs.

## EDUCATION: Learn Here, Live Here

- ★ We have in place a \$181 million increase in state school aid for 2008, which will continue with slight increases into 2009.
- ★ A new law is intended to improve school learning environments, by revising policies on in-school suspension and school bullying.
- ★ We proposed an innovative way for graduates to save for their first home and raise their families in Connecticut by banking their state income tax payments for up to 10 years.

## ENVIRONMENT: Protecting our Natural Resources

- ★ We passed a global warming bill to lessen the state's carbon footprint and to make Connecticut a more "green" place to live.
- ★ We also attempted to streamline recycling efforts and ban the use of pesticides in high schools. These issues will be revisited in the 2009 session.

## SENIORS: Home Care for the Elderly

- ★ An important new law allows 5,000 Connecticut elderly and disabled to receive long-term care in their homes without having to go into a nursing home. This is more desirable and more cost effective.
- ★ We proposed exempting pensions from state income taxes to keep retirees in Connecticut.

## VETERANS: Recognizing their Service

- ★ Some benefits to veterans will be improved, and Gold Star license plates will be issued free of charge to family members to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. "Support Our Troops" plates also will be issued.



# ...Securing Your Future with Effective Leadership